AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter December 10, 1914, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 7. NO. 51. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1918. WHOLE NO. 363.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

STRIKE RIGHT UPHELD; LABOR GROUP VIGILANT

Washington, March 16.—Although organized labor is doing its utmost to end strikes on war work by developing the process of conciliation and arbitration, a wide-awake labor group was necessary to block Congressman Joe Carpenter's drive to crush labor.

When the question was presented in a clear cut manner, a roll call vote showed but 38 congressmen favored the plan.

The house was considering a bill to prohibit destruction of war materials when Mr. Cannon proposed "to catch Mr. J. W. Wo'f" by making it criminal offense to "conspire to prevent the erection or production of such war premises, war material or war utilities."

Congressman Keating, Nolan and Linn of the labor group declared that the pending bill intended to punish those who attempt to hamper the prosecution of the war by injuring war material, and that citizens forced to quit work to secure better living conditions are put in the traitor class by the Cannon amendment which was the intention or purpose of the bill.

Congressman Morgan, a member of the judiciary committee, refused to accept the interpretation which he said "brings in questions which were not involved in the consideration of the bill." Morgan said he would vote for any legislation that will punish men who destroy war material, but not those who "by the progress of the war, "hat," he continued, "I am not willing to vote for a conspiracy" provision which might be construed to interfere with the just rights of labor when they are fervently organized. I do not believe a conspiracy statute, applicable to labor generally, is necessary. Investigation shows that in efficiency in agriculture, measured by the produce per acre, America is being graded 100. Belgium leads the world, at 205; Great Britain comes second, at 164, and Germany third, at 155; America comes fourth.

"But the better test is the man test rather than the acre test, and here America leads the world by over 2 to 1. Again, the comparison of 9,000 per farm worker, Great Britain produces 43 and Germany 41. The American farmer's advantage is that the man farmers but 7. With the aid of power machinery the American farm produces more per acre, but he produces at a much greater cost per hundred and for almost much less than half as much per man."

WANT $745,600.

Fort Smith, Ark., March 16.—The Fort Smith Light & Traction Co. says the United Mine Workers must pay the Bache-Denman coal syndicate what is asked for coal or "the German people," says the Daily News.

"Some Maryland and New Jersey prosecutors are in a position to get a great deal of favorable advertising by failing to enforce the law and picking up a few of those who evade work because they are well-to-do, and permitting the rest to go with the down-and-outs. It will be interesting to watch the authorities attempt to do what they have failed to do for centuries, have tried for centuries to accomplish—make able-bodied sons work usefully.

STORES ARE SWEAT SHOPS.

St. Louis, Mo., March 16.—"Kindergartens of misery" was the term used by President Baker of the International Retail Clerks' Protective association in describing conditions in a retail department store in the city.

The strike involves several thousand men, women and girls, who are demanding a living wage. In resolutions passed by the central trades and labor union, it is declared that the managers of these stores had been engaged for a week prior to the strike in discharging employes and threatening them with discharge if they joined the Retail Clerks' Union or attended meetings of that organization.

HOW WAGES ARE BASED.

Chicago, March 16.—In the stockyards' wage arbitration hearing before Federal Judge Alschuler packers insisted that the cost of meat to the family is what is to be considered when wages are being set. The only "safe" system, they say, is to maintain the market rate of labor in the community.

In industries, they declare, if wages are below the living line in other industries, the packers claim the right to employ their workers under the same conditions.

LABOR'S BILL OF RIGHTS.

Albany, N. Y., March 16.—State Senator Foley has introduced a labor bill in the state assembly similar to the Clayton law. Labor is declared not to be a commodity or an article of commerce, and indictment or trial of a person for any agreement for lessening hours, wages, increasing wages or bettering working men's conditions, or for refusing to purchase thereof, is forbidden unless such act is prohibited by law if done by a single individual.

TIMBER WORKERS UNITE; WANT TO AVOID STRIKES

Seattle, March 16.—Enthusiastic over the granting of an eight-hour day by employers, and the raise in their long strike, timber workers and shingle weavers have amalgamated and declare their allegiance to the government and protest against strikes until all other means of securing justice have been exhausted.

At a convention in this city these workers amalgamated into the International union of timber workers and after stating that they will refuse to be loyal, unanimously declared:

"Refusing to surrender our right to quit work to enforce legitimate demands we none the less express the belief that the right should not be resorted to, especially at this time, only as a last resort, and after all other means of securing justice have been exhausted.

"We feel that all agreements entered into governing industrial conditions should be rigidly adhered to, and pledge the full resources of this organization to the honest fulfillment of any agreements entered into; that they enforce into effect with the cooperation of the government, or with the government alone."

SHIPBUILDERS' WAGES RAISED BY U. S. BOARD

Washington, March 16. General increases in wages, an eight-hour day, with time and one-half for overtime, free transportation where men employe is compelled to spend more than 70 cents a day for car fare, and provision for grievance committees, are authorized in an award by the federal ship building labor adjustment board, which consists of Judge Alschuler, Colonel Charles Ecoolidge, V. Everitt Macey, and A. J. Berres, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. metal trades department.

The award applies to all wooden ship yards south of Baltimore and all steel yards south of Newport News on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The decision follows in principle the recent awards in the Delaware river and Philadelphia districts.

In granting a new eight-hour day, the board undertook to encourage the institution of two and three shifts by providing overtime rates. The board's amount of work shall not exceed 60 hours a week.

March 1 was made the effective date of the award, which is retroactive as to wages paid from 1917. Payment of men not fully qualified, is permitted where apprentices or craftsmen are not available, provided that for the talned six months, they shall be advanced to journeymen's wages.

The board is now adjusting wage differences in the New York and Boston ship building districts.

EFFICIENCY COMPARED.

Washington, March 16.—In a bulletin issued by the United States census department, it is said that the first searchlight of war has brought out many interesting facts, and one of these is that the comparative degree of efficiency will not always stand the test of comparison with American efficiency.

"The Germans boasted of being the greatest farmers in Europe. Investigation shows that in efficiency in agriculture, measured by the produce per acre, America being graded 100, Belgium leads the world, at 205; Great Britain comes second, at 164, and Germany third, at 155; America comes fourth.

"But the better test is the man test rather than the acre test, and here America leads the world by over 2 to 1. Again, the comparison of 9,000 per farm worker, Great Britain produces 43 and Germany 41. The American farmer cultivates but 7. With the aid of power machinery the American farm produces more per acre, but he produces at a much greater cost per hundred and for almost much less than half as much per man."

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FIGHTING UNIONISM FAVORED BY CAVE MEN

St. Louis, Mo., March 16.—Only cave men, blind to social changes, would organization of workers, declares William M. Reedy, editor of Reedy's Mirror, in writing on the strike of retail clerks in this city.

"Collective bargaining is accordant with the socio-economic spirit of the time," he says. "The nations have come to it. The race is in their courses fight for it. All business must come to it, and it dealings with unions are troublesome, well, trouble is inevitable in business as a sort of fixed charge, and unionization has peace to offset against trouble.

"There's no use in fighting democracy, for what's democracy but standing together for the right of each to the fuller proceeds of his or her labor? The rich may have been precipitate and unprepared. It is now, but it will help prepare the public mind. Strikes are not desirable, though indeed the employers show they have not closed minds to the existence of the right to strike and arbitrate. To all the employers involved in strikes I would say that it will pay them to meet the unions as to government recently formulated by the British trade unions. They are proposals which the British Labor and the present government have in effect accepted. They are proposals which concessions to collective bargaining our own country has made in dealing with railroads, mines, men, ship builders, sailors. They are not to be sweated aside as war-concessions. They are permanent gains. They are necessary for the preservation and expansion of which the war is being fought. An understanding democracy at all. The day for fighting unionism has passed by. The day for the lowest limit of subsistence is no democracy at all. The day for fighting unionism has passed by. The day that the progressive citizens than the men who conduct our big retail stores, no personal liberty is involved in the act of collective bargaining with arbitration of disputes has come to stay."

PAY YOUR INCOME TAX.

Washington, March 16.—The Official Bulletin, issued by the government, prints this warning:

"Not all people is taxable—and it must be a modest one to escape taxation under the war revenue act of October 3, 1917. Don't wait to be notified that you must pay an income tax. The government is not required to seek the taxpayer. The taxpayer must seek the government.

"You may file your return any time before April 1 but if your net for the year 1917 was $1,000 or more, and of every married person whose net income was $2,000 or more.

"The rate of tax is at least 2 per cent on net incomes of unmarried persons in excess of $1,000, and on incomes of married persons in excess of $2,000. Payment must be made on or before June 15, 1918."

DON'T LIKE UNIONISM.

St. Louis, Mo., March 16.—The attempt of Mrs. Partington, the old lady with the mop trying to sweep back the ocean, is duplicated by trades manufacturers in this city who think they can stem the tide of labor employes into the Tobacco Workers' union.

The employers are camouflaging their anti-unionism under "open shop" declarations but their employes are not fooled by these discredited terms.

The company announced that he would reduce wages if his employes joined the union. Threats of strike caused him to withdraw the statement.

Employes of the Liggett & Myers Tobacco company, Lorillard and Tobacco trust, have joined the Tobacco Workers' union and are now on strike demanding a spec. work system that reduces wages.

WAR SAVINGS URGED.

Kansas City, Mo., March 16.—"To keep up the pay envelope," the Boiler Makers' Journal, "is showing wise forethought and in no other way can the workers invest money to more better than in buying thrift stamps and baby bonds. We can save as small sums as a dime a day and when we have 16 of these thrift stamps we have only to add 84 cents to become the possessor of a bond, guaranteed by the United States government, which pays 4 per cent interest. These are most desirable as investments, for while we hold them the government pays interest, should we find it necessary to realize on them, we can have them cashed in 30 days' time and get interest on the time they were held. See your postmaster for details and get busy."

10-CENT STORES PAY.

New York, March 16.—Showing an increase over last year of $649,-966, or 11.51 per cent, the F. W. Woolworth company, operating 310 5 and 10-cent stores, announces that sales for the month of February totaled $6,294,906. The increase is remarkable inasmuch as during the year 1917 they invest nine months 75 per cent of the stores were affected by three heatless Mondays and New England stores by four heatless Mondays.

LOSES LEG; GETS $75,000.

New York, March 16.—Private Burgess of the 107th infantry, 27th division, has been awarded $75,000 by a supreme court jury. He sued the Northern Pacific and New York company for twice this amount, alleging that his legs were cut off through the negligence of the defendants. He was doing guard duty in the railroad yard at Lurchmont, Virginia, when a train backed down on him without warning.

SIDE LIGHT ON SHIP YARD.

Philadelphia, March 16.—Working conditions in the Hog Island shipyards are indicated by this statement by Hamilton Holt, editor of the Independent, in an article published in a newspaper:

"The reads leading to Hog Island are abominable and if the workers ought to leave the yards unless better facilities are provided."

DREDGE MEN GAIN.

San Francisco, March 16.—Organized shovel and dredge men have signed a new agreement, effective April 1. The wage increase is 10 per cent and the hours are cut seven. The men insist the agitation that spread

PACKERS' "SLAVES" MENACE SOCIAL LIFE

Chicago, March 16.—In ringing terms, Samuel Gompers, counsel for the organized workers in the packers' wage controversy, declared that conditions in this industry are a menace to America's social life and called upon the arbitrator, Federal Judge Alschuler, to bring about a readjustment which would place these employes upon a solid footing and give them a chance in life. Mr. Walsh likened the stock yard workers to the slaves of ante-bellum days and said that the packers have turned them into economic hostages.

He declared it a crime against American womanhood and a menace to unborn babes to put women on a killing floor to handle offal and singe the carcasses of hogs, and he said the conditions under which "piece work" for decent wages and fair hours was worthy of nothing but contempt.

"Your's is the duty and your's is the opportunity," said Judge Alschuler at the climax of his argument, "to emancipate more slaves than Abraham Lincoln did, by fixing a living wage for these people, regardless of the supply and demand. Your decision in granting the demands will affect the whole industrial community. It will bring happiness into more homes than any other single act ever performed.

"You have before you 8,000,000 workers two-thirds are barely existing because they are underpaid. Your decision will affect every one of the industries in which they are employed and will bring about a better and higher standard of wages and living."

COSSACKS NOT NEEDED.

Albany, N. Y., March 16.—Many sheriffs in this state are not taking kindly to the state constabulary, which was established to aid in enforcing the law in rural localities, although trade unionists insist that the purpose was to break strikes.

In answer to a request from a member of the general assembly as to the working of the law, he says: "I intelligently act on the plan to enlarge the force as I have reported. Having been opposed increasing the force, sight favored the plan and one was commissioned.

Sheriff Dodge, of Saratoga county, wrote that "the state constabulary is needed in the state and such a force can not be had. If the sheriff and his deputies and the town officers are no good enough them get one."

Sheriff Biggs, of Suffolk county, pronounced the cossacks a failure. He wrote:

"They have not arrested a felon in this county, and so far as I know have arrested only persons for violations of the motor vehicle law. To try them out in a rural community such as burglary, assault and larceny, and such case was reported back, 'No results'."

FEW SLACKERS IN U. S.

Washington, March 16.—In his report on the operation of the draft law, Provost Marshal General Crowder says that on June 5 last nearly 10,000,000 males of the designated ages were successfully registered and that by December 2, only 5,870 arrests were made or reported for failure to register. Of these 2,663 were released, later having registered and prosecutions were dismissed in 1,965, of which 1,665 cases are still pending.

Of individuals indulging in antigovernment utterances or actions reported, with heavy penalties imposed in practically all cases were found guilty and there are 106 of these cases now pending.

It is stated that the trend of court decisions has been to support the findings of local district boards, it being contended that the true interpretation of the board is the proper one for the determination of these questions rather than that of any court which where a registrant has been given an opportunity to be heard.

HUGE WOOL EARNINGS.

New York, March 16.—As an example of the enormous profits being made by many corporations are making out of war business, the annual report of the American Woolen company for the year ending December 31 last may be accepted as a fair index. Its earnings were $15,564,898 net, compared with $8,210,767 in 1916, $6,116,249 in 1915 and $5,776,602 the year when the war began. Prior to that it had shown a deficit.

After all deductions, there was a surplus of $6,844,000 for dividends on the common stock, or 13 per cent. Since March 1, last year, government contracts amounted to over $100,000,000.

MAY BAR ALIEN VOTES.

Washington, March 16.—Enemy aliens, estimated at 250,000, to whom suffrage has been granted in 10 states by the legislatures, would be denied by some citizens, will be deprived of this privilege if a bill introduced by Congressman Flood in the house becomes law. Such legislation is deemed necessary by Mr. Flood in view of the activities of enemies of the United States may control next November's elections in many congressional districts.

BOILER MEN MAKE RECORD.

Altoona, Pa., March 16.—Boiler makers in this city have organized the first local of their union in Pennsylvania railroad town east of Pittsburg. The union will be known as "William Penn Lodge No. 154," and will be the director general of railroads, who has notified railroad managers, in general order No. 8, that there must be no discrimination against unions.

WAGE INCREASES AT LOWELL.

Lowell, Mass., March 16.—A strike of 2,000 employes at the Boss Lowell company has been averted by wage increases of 2 cents an hour and overtime. The men insist the agitation that spread

RICH CHICAGO YOUTH IGNORES CHILDREN

Washington, March 16.—Under the caption "Can and Should," the Washington Herald has this to say on an incident in the Chicago stock yards' wage arbitration hearing:

"Nelson Morris, Chicago packer, has got the what-you-can-live-on theorists all hurried up again by declaring that children should walk to school and get along on three movie shows, two pairs of shoes and six worth of clothing a year.

"Mr. Morris is only 35 years old, and should learn. Mr. Morris has always had all the car tickets, movies, shoes and clothing he wanted, probably more than was really best for him.

"What a world of difference between these two little words 'should' and 'can!' And how everlastingly prone they are to quarrel with each other! They yoke them together, and how they do pull!

"A child can crawl to school on hands and knees, can get along without theaters or other pleasures, can go barefoot and can be clothed in rags all the year. It can eat husks. It can never hear music or see flowers. It can exist somehow on a starvation diet.

"But should it? Right here civilization and barbarism go to it with bare knuckles. Barbarism says that the child can starve, freeze, degenerate; civilized, progressive 'should' says it shall not. It is the issue of the whole battle. Its issue is as old as mankind. In one corner of the ring, as seconds, are Americans who have known of Jesus Christ, in the other corner, the Huns.

"But, in our times, it is a foolish battle, a battle over nothing. There is no such problem as what a child can do. A bloody prize ring, when the spectators can make them pull as a team. Our problem is to give the child the very best of everything that we are able to, and the question of what we can do for the child is foolish waste of time and energy."

REFUSE TO MEDIATE.

Cincinnati, March 16.—A representative of the federal department of labor has been turned down by employers in Hamilton county, who refuse to mediate wages differences with striking employes. The government official suggested that both employer and employes deal on a collective basis, but the bosses refused. All of them, however, will demand more industrial unrest in these war times.

The employers' action recalls President Gompers' speech at the last convention of the A. F. of L., in which he cited examples of this kind.

"Nobody has a right to stop the processes of labor until all the methods of conciliation and arbitration have been exhausted; and I might as well say right here that I am not talking to you about, at some time, I will stop the courses of labor, but there are others who do the same. And I will say right here, that it is my own experience not only, but of the experience of others, that labor's rights are reasonable to a larger number of cases than the capitalists."

MUST-WORK LAW IN EFFECT.

Trenton, N. J., March 16.—Governor Edge has "proclaimed" the New Jersey anti-loafing law, which passed the legislature last year. By proclamation the governor issued a proclamation that war needs of the state demand that persons between the ages of 18 and 50, must work.

While the state department of labor will not search for idlers, they will be employed when necessary, the law will be enforced judiciously, according to an announcement made by the executive:

"There are kinds of work too severe, in a physical sense, for the society idler, who may, however, be employed at light, heat, service, etc., and would be impossible for slackers of the hobo type."

Governor Edge seems enthusiastic over the legislation, which will, he declares as did English statesmen in the time of Queen Elizabeth, "curb vagrancy, uselessness, mendicancy, immorality and crime."

2-CENT RATE OUTLAWED.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 16. The 2-cent railroad passenger rate provision of the Oklahoma state constitution, which the corporation commission is enjoined by Federal Judge Youmans. An order issued by the Oklahoma state corporation commission, in which the commission took jurisdiction over the interstate and passenger rates within the state, was also permanently enjoined, as are certain freight orders issued by the commission.

Judge Youmans holds that the 2-cent rate, adopted by the people of Oklahoma when they approved their constitution, is confiscatory and that the freight rates put in by the commission discriminates against the interstate business of the roads. The case has been in the federal courts for nearly 10 years.

WANT WOMEN PROTECTED.

Madison, Wis., March 16.—Organization of a league against the alleged attempted employment of women by the Kenosha Street railway. The industrial welfare of women, employment of women in this work calls for late hours and that strenuous physical activity and health are endangered.

"We have struggled for years," said President Brown, of the local federation of labor, "to enact laws safeguarding the employment of girls under the guise of 'war necessity,' we believe attempts are being made to destroy their effectiveness."

IS FISHING WORK?

Baltimore, March 16.—William Bush of Williamsport, fisherman, has been arrested on a charge of violating the compulsory work law. Bush was attempting to reduce the H. C. of L. by catching fish. Under the law he grab his well baited hook and he has called fishing "work." Bush will be tried because he couldn't pay a $10 fine for violating the law that compels everybody in this state to work.

The court will decide whether or not fishing is work.

GET 48-HOUR WEEK.

New York, March 16.—White goods workers affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, are the first in the ladies' garment industry to win the 48-hour week, which is now in effect. Cutters receiving $22 a week get $24, pressers $20 a week, and 21 a week is added to higher rated cutters.

CEMENT WORKERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., March 16.—Cement workers in this city have signed a new agreement, effective April 1. The agreement runs to April 1, 1919. Wages are increased 5 to 10 per cent.

JOKER LEGISLATION CHECKED BY SENATE

Washington, March 16.—The United States senate has amended its rules so that "joker" legislation, such as has been the subject of much criticism, may be compelled to stand the test of publicity and discussion.

When the senate and house differ on legislation, the matter is referred to conferees, generally three from each house, who mediate the differences. The conferees report to their respective houses and must be accepted as a whole or recommitted to the conferees with instructions.

Under this system "jokers" have been written into legislation, as have entire paragraphs wholly foreign to the subject of the lawmakers who approved the bill, and who later discovered that the purposes or the bill were destroyed or materially weakened.

Social legislation has suffered under this system, which the senate now checks by passing the following resolution:

"Conferees will not insert in their report matter not committed to them by either house, nor shall they strike from the bill matter agreed to by both houses. If new matter is inserted in the report, or if matter which was agreed to or both houses is stricken from the bill, a point of order may be made against the report, and if the point of order is sustained the report shall be recommitted to the committee on conference."

SAYS PUBLICITY HURTS.

Washington, March 16.—A senate committee, which is investigating the Hog Island ship building venture, was told that "criticising high salaries was taking the heart of the men to work." This opinion was expressed by Dwight P. Robinson, president of the corporation, when Senator Vardaman asked why Gustav Goodenough receives a salary of $25,000, against a maximum pay of $12,000 from a Boston engineering firm, where he was employed before going to Hog Island.

Robinson's belief did not impress the investigators, and Senator Vardaman remarked: "I cannot understand how the spirit of the laboring man is broken when he sees his salary published."

"Is it absolutely necessary that $25,000 a year should be paid to get to preserve the spirit of the men?" asked Senator Johnson of California.

"I would say just that; he is working at top speed and intelligently and effectively," answered Robinson.

"Yes, and at top salary, too," retorted the western lawmaker.

"Well, if we don't pay salaries we can't get the men and we can't get them to do the work," said the ship company official.

"That kind of threat will not affect me. I'll not recess from the American international corporation or anybody else," answered Senator Vardaman.

This corporation will receive profits of at least $1,000,000 a year, in addition, the government is paying sub-contractors about a million dollars for "know how" in building ships, which funds the corporation can't lose.

ARIZONA HAS IDLE MINERS.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 16. — The United States employment service is checking the unemployed. The United Copper company in its attempt to ship miners into this area on the ground that they are "American citizens."

Frank Brown, representative of the United States employment service, has notified the San Francisco office that "employment service in Arizona can furnish to any mining camp or company any number of miners they may need. If a representative of the Inspiration company claims miners, who are citizens, cannot be secured in Arizona, he is unfamiliar with conditions in the state, and is purposely misrepresenting conditions."

By shipping men into Arizona, the copper company hopes to evade the recommendations of the president's mediation commission sand to also break the strike of miners who are demanding reasonable working conditions.

SIGN CIVIL RIGHTS' BILL

Washington, March 16.—President Wilson has signed the soldiers' and sailors' civil rights bill, recently passed by congress. Under it it is unlawful to evict a soldier's dependents for non-payment of rent when less than $50 a month; to cut off a soldier's life insurance because of delayed premiums; to foreclose a mortgage on a soldier's property; to take away a soldier's home on which he has made part payments; to sell a soldier's property because of his failure to pay personal, state or local taxes; to settle a law suit against a soldier during his absence, or to take judgment by default against a soldier during his absence. The law provides that courts shall appoint attorneys to defend the rights of military men and their dependents.

PLAN INSTALMENT FINES.

Albany, N. Y., March 16.—A bill introduced in the state assembly provides that persons fined for offenses by city magistrates may have the right to pay at the time they are found guilty, may pay on the instalment plan. Figures have been shown that there were 18,600 persons sent to jail for non-payment of fines, and that in 1917 over 6,000 received straight jail sentences without option of a fine.

FAVOR ONE-DAY REST.

Boston, March 16.—The Massachusetts house of representatives refused to accept an adverse committee report on a bill to cut down off in seven for employes of hotels and restaurants in this state. The committee recommendation was rejected on a roll call vote of 142 to 73.

FOUNDATION ATTACKED.

Albany, N. Y., March 16.—Senator Boylan has introduced a bill in the state legislature to repeal the state's workmen's compensation corporation charter. The foundation is accused of seeking to dominate public schools and colleges.

MACHINISTS GAIN.

Bridgeport, Conn., March 16.—Union tool makers and machinists have secured a substantial increase in wages at the Graphophone company. The federal department of labor assisted in the settlement.

WAGE AVERAGE DECLINES.

Albany, N. Y., March 16.—The monthly statement of the state industrial commission reports that the average weekly per capita earnings of all employes, including both men and women in shops and other places reporting for one week in January, was $16.81, or 20 cents less than for the previous month.

There were 1,648 firms with over 600,000 employes, or more than one-fifth of the total number of firms reporting, which showed increases. The total number of employes employed 2 per cent more workers, and 7 per cent more than in December.

TOBACCO FOR SOLDIERS.

Louisville, Ky., March 16.—The International Tobacco Workers' union has issued a request to all trade unions in which attention is called to the necessity of supplying tobacco to soldiers. It is urged that when unionists donate to any tobacco fund that the donations be turned over to the tobacco workers' headquarters, thereby assuring soldiers and sailors the union-label product. Unionists attending the theatres, are asked to demand that the programs be printed on union label paper.

LABOR LAW ATTACKED.

Rock Springs, Wyo., March 16.—The prosecuting attorney of this county is attacking the law for the protection of workers in better compensation law that he has filed a friendly suit in the district court to have it declared the constitutionality of the present act.

The editor of the Wyoming Weekly Miner is also attacking the validity of the attorney and says:

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Washington, March 16.—United States Consul Johnson, stationed at Dundee, Scotland, reports to the government that Scotch officials have recommended that farmers and farm laborers receive time and a half pay for work done on Saturdays as long as the war lasts, and that all work done on Sundays, of the present customary hours shall be paid as overtime at the rate of price and one-half.

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EIGHT-HOUR SEIGE GUN SMASHES ANOTHER LINE

Portland, Ore., March 16.—The eight-hour seige gun of organized labor has been mounted in the Pacific long-hour lumber men and loggers in the northwest, and at a meeting in this city of 200 Oregon and Washington employers, the West Coast Lumber Men's association, foisted the shorter work day fiasco. It is stated that about 50,000 workers in the two states will be affected. Employers in Humboldt county, California, have taken similar action, as has the British Loggers' association.

The Oregon and Washington lumber men insist that their conversion to the eight-hour day is based on patriotic motives and that an eight-months' strike and widespread unrest in industry had nothing to do with their decision.

Last year the international union of timber workers and the international shingle weavers' union, both affiliated with the A. F. of L., suspended all work and the employers refused to even answer their demands for a conference. Many of the mill owners granted eight hours, but the larger concerns were unyielding and were active in the declared "pro-German agitation." The first of the year the Western Pine Manufacturers declared for eight hours, but the influence of the West Coast Lumber Men's association was used to secure a delay of the pine lumbermen, who republished their agreement. The action of the West Coast association means that the lumber industry in the entire northwest will be on an eight-hour basis. This change will undoubtedly affect the long work day in the southern pine industry.

The eight-hour movement of northwestern unionists was given a further record of confidence in mediation commission, which visited this section, and gave practical indorsement to the workers' claims. The commission claimed that "opposition to their demands must be carried to the point of binding members of an employers' association on the Pacific coast by agreements to discriminate against such mill men as produce the shingle.

"In the judgment of the commission, the introduction of a basic eight-hour day in the northwest lumber industry in indispensable as a measure of national need."

KAISERS IN DISTRESS.

Portland, Ore., March 16.—"Agitator Uncovers Strike Plot" screams the Crown Willamette Paper company in an advertisement for 600 strikebreakers.

"Equal or better wages and conditions than those which were given the United States," continues the advertisement.

Against the charge that these workers are unpatriotic, President Wilson's mediation commission put this charge to rest when it declared:

"In its present attitude the company is operating contrary to the principle of industrial adjustment and is unresponsive to enlightened conceptions of patriotism. The commission has considered the refusal of the company as unchanged contrary to the wishes of employes, leading to a refusal to tacitly conceded evils, or to discuss possible adjustments, for fear that such concession or such discussion may be deemed an admission of the right to organization of employes who are urging the adjustment of such evils."

WAITERS MAKE RECORD.

Washington, March 16.—Waiters employed in the larger hotels in this city recently organized and have just secured increases in wages of $10 a month, with 50 cents an hour for overtime, give one day off in each week, pay a abolishes the intolerable long hours and establishes a maximum of nine hours for attending banquets.

The hotels agree to establish sanitary lockers and toilet facilities, and every effort is to be made to secure wholesome food in sanitary quarters.

Officers of the hotel and restaurant employes' International alliance declare this is a record for a "baby" union less than two months old.

U. S. SEAMEN AID STRIKERS.

Minneapolis, March 16.—Representatives of the Waitresses' union reported to the trades and labor assembly that the waitresses were actively organizing a restaurant that refused living conditions. United States seamen broke through the picket line and insisted on eating in the struck house. The boycott established in this city was asked by the unionists if it indorsed strikebreaking and in a few minutes the crews of the ships tied up and the strikebreakers' packs came tearing down the street. When they left the restaurant there were 2 blue jackets in the group.

PIPE MEN ADVANCE.

Atlanta, Ga., March 16.—Organized plumbers and pipe fitters have secured a new agreement with which calls for a minimum rate of $5.50 for an eight-hour day and the Saturday half holiday.

LABORERS RAISE WAGES.

Brooklyn, Iowa, March 16.—The Laborers' Protective union, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has been organized and compelled an employer to reinstate a victimized worker.

CONSCRIPT ADVOCATES SHOULD BE CONSISTENT

Indianapolis, March 16.—The United Mine Workers' Journal gives consistent advice to labor advocates of food for thought:

"Labor conscription is still advocated by those who hope thereby to profit by underpaid forced labor. Labor should be conscripted now, it forced labor should be demanded by our government no future strike shall be allowed to profiteers.

"We maintain that any industry that can only be operated by forced labor provided by the government's power must confess itself a failure as a private enterprise.

"We hold that free labor has proven its full efficiency, in spite of the obstructions caused by some of the unpatriotic employers. The cry for labor conscription that has been raised is only in the hope that labor can be forced to work at existence wages and to the benefit of the few.

"Let those understand—labor will never submit to such a system. Labor is willing to do its part to profit thereby but it will not stand for that regime under any circumstances."

WAGE AWARD GIVEN.

Washington, March 16.—The monthly statement of the state industrial commission reports that the average weekly per capita earnings of all employes, including both men and women in shops and other places reporting for one week in January, was $16.81, or 20 cents less than for the previous month.

There were 1,648 firms with over 600,000 employes, or more than one-fifth of the total number of firms reporting, which showed increases. The total number of employes employed 2 per cent more workers, and 7 per cent more than in December.

TOBACCO FOR SOLDIERS.

Louisville, Ky., March 16.—The International Tobacco Workers' union has issued a request to all trade unions in which attention is called to the necessity of supplying tobacco to soldiers. It is urged that when unionists donate to any tobacco fund that the donations be turned over to the tobacco workers' headquarters, thereby assuring soldiers and sailors the union-label product. Unionists attending the theatres, are asked to demand that the programs be printed on union label paper.

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